

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-6, and 9-14 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 2, 7 and 8 have been cancelled; claims 1, 3-6 and 9 have been amended; and new claims 11-14 have been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the contents of cancelled claim 2 and a portion of the contents of claim 6.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend upon claim 1 rather than cancelled claim 2.

Claim 5 has been amended to state that the steps recited therein are conducted prior to the cutting step. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in claim 6.

Claim 6 has been amended to delete the steps of cutting the electrical connection between the first electrode and the metal film on the first post (this step now recited in amended claim 1) and electrically connecting the driver to the first electrode and the second electrode of the light transmitting device (now recited in new claim 11).

Claim 9 has been amended to depend upon new claim 12 and to be consistent therewith.

New claim 11 depends upon claim 6 and recites the step of electrically connecting the driver to the first electrode and the second electrode of the light-transmitting device, subsequently to the cutting step.

New claim 12 is an independent claim combining the features of claims 1, 7, 8 and 9.

New claims 13 and 14 depend upon claim 12. Support for claim 13 can be found, e.g., in claim 5. Support for claim 14 can be found, e.g., in claim 10.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Application No. 2003/0059177 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,160,834 to Scott ("Scott").

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action.

I. The Rejection

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Scott.

Suzuki is cited for disclosing a light-transmitting module having a sub-mount 16 and a first post 18 mounted on the conductive carrier 10. The sub-mount is said to have a light-

transmitting device mounted thereon, wherein the light-transmitting device is made of a semiconductor material. The light-transmitting device is said to be electrically connected to the first electrode 24 (see Figure 2). The light-transmitting device is tested by supplying current through a first probe touching the metal film 24. According to the Office Action, Suzuki does not teach a metal film formed on the first post and second post.

Scott is cited for disclosing forming a probe pad metallization (see Fig. 4, reference numerals 34 and 62), for the purpose of electrical testing.

According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to form additional posts onto the sub-mount having thin metal films formed upon the posts, or to form the thin metal films upon the laser diode having an insulating layer in between. The motivation for forming additional posts having thin metal films upon the posts is said to be easy accessibility to the electrodes when the device is tested for reliability.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-6 and 9-14 would not have been obvious over Suzuki in view of Scott.

According to the Office Action, reference numeral 18 in Suzuki refers to a "first post". However, according to Suzuki, reference numeral 18 therein refers to a laser diode (see, e.g., paragraph [0033]). Laser diode 18 is mounted on a carrier assembly 16 such that one electrode thereof faces and comes into contact with a metal pattern 22 (GND pattern). Also mounted on the carrier assembly 16 is a photodiode 20, which detects the optical output power of the laser diode. Carrier assembly 16 is mounted on an L-shaped metal block 10. Carrier assembly 16 appears to be the only element mounted on metal block 10.

Applicants submit that Suzuki does not teach or suggest the presence of a first post in the module therein. Laser diode 18 in Suzuki corresponds to the light-transmitting device in Applicants' light-transmitting module, not to the first post therein.

The first post is an important element in Applicants' claimed methods. For example, in the claim 1 method, the first step involves mounting the first post on the conductive carrier, the second step involves mounting the light-transmitting device on the sub-mount, the third step involves electrically connecting the first electrode of the light-transmitting device to the metal film on the first post, the fourth step involves testing the light-transmitting device by supplying

current through a first probe touching the metal film on the first post, and the fifth step involves cutting the electrical connection between the first electrode and the metal film on the first post.

Applicants further submit that Suzuki does not teach or suggest the presence of a third post in the module therein. The third post is an important element in the methods recited in new claims 12-14 and claim 9, which depends upon claim 12. For example, in the claim 12 method, the first step involves mounting the first and third posts on the conductive carrier, the second step involves mounting the light-transmitting device on the sub-mount, the third step involves electrically connecting the first electrode of the light-transmitting device to the metal film on the first post through the metal film on the third post, the fourth step involves testing the light-transmitting device by supplying current through a first probe touching the metal film on the first probe, and the fifth step involves cutting the electrical connection between the metal film on the first post and the metal film on the third post.

Scott does not cure Suzuki's failure to teach the presence of Applicants' recited procedure with first and third posts.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki in view of Scott would not have rendered instant claims 1, 3-6 and 9-14 obvious.

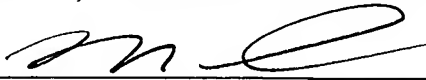
II. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 1, 3-6 and 9-14 be allowed.

If any additional fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033035M144.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: (1) Petition for Extension of Time
(2) Check for the sum of \$120